

Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association Inc.

August September 2022

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads



The R Tucker Thompson in the harbour on 2 July 2022.
Photo by Wendy Giffin

Thank you Bob Smith - Pg 5 • Matariki Celebrations - Pg 7 • Onerahi Community Leaders needed - Pg 8



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Haere mai,

Welcome to the August and September 2022 edition of the Orbit. This edition recognises our local leaders and looks forward to the local government elections in October.

The rain seems to be a permanent fixture these days, and we're sure everyone is looking forward to spring. With the global and national food supply chains in disarray, our spring edition will present some food growing ideas. Until then, gather your pots, old pillow cases and anything else you can use for growing plants. Prepare sunny spots on decks, verandahs and driveways. Start composting your kitchen and paper waste. If you have access to some land, start to clear and feed it by burying food scraps, seaweed and manure. Come spring and summer, these preparations will save you money and supply you with fresh salads and vegetables.

Remember - written and photographic local information, comments and contributions are always appreciated by the Onerahi Orbit.

Nga mihi from the Orbit team.

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- Cultivate and nurture the interests of the community of Onerahi
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President's Report

I am honoured to have been elected President of the Onerahi Association at the AGM in June.

I was very pleased to see the return of a number of experienced committee members who have been active in the committee for a number of years, their passion and commitment to OCA is undiminished. In addition new members were voted onto the committee in particular Tarquala Whittaker-Stone, a young person who will hopefully include a voice of rangitahi to the committee discussions and decision making. Other new members Nicki Powell and Moana Gotty have strong connections into primary school. New voices will contribute to where I see a shift in the committee's work into more proactivity from somewhat reactivity over the past couple of years. We have a number of young people in Onerahi - I am sure there is more that can be done to cater for the needs of these young people. OCA is in a good position to lead thinking, planning and connection for providing for young people's needs.

Planned work this year will include: youth focussed activity, consultation in regard to community led projects to meet community aspirations, listening to and responding on behalf of residents, recognising and acknowledging community

The full 2022/23 committee members:

- Grant Harrison - president
- Jeff Pipe
- Rose Tantau - Treasurer/Administration
- Robert Coats
- Malcolm Perry - Secretary
- Lorraine Perry
- Angela Gill
- Nicki Powell
- Wendy Giffin
- Tarquala Whittaker-Stone
- Nick Connop
- Moana Gotty
- Steven Beazley

contributors, promoting Onerahi to the wider district, focusing on environmentally sustainable practices, and improving the use of community spaces.

The OCA is in the process of refreshing its strategic plan and aligning it to one for the wider district. Having a committee member on a group who will work with Council on community led projects will provide some great success stories to share with the wider community. It recognises the Onerahi Orbit as a key communication platform and utilises other platforms such as Facebook to provide a forum for discussion and ideas.

The AGM heard a range of comments from residents present who raised concerns around traffic speeds and behaviours, pedestrian safety, disability awareness and township presentation. The OCA, having heard these concerns, will pass the concerns onto the relevant authorities and monitor actions.

It will be an exciting year for the committee as the OCA will strive towards achieving its core purpose to Connect Onerahi.

Grant Harrison - OCA President

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The Onerahi Orbit is a not-for-profit publication owned by the Onerahi Community Association, that reports the good news in Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua, and Whangārei Heads. 4100 copies are printed by Jeff Oliver Print and distributed by volunteers throughout this area; readership is approximately 12,500. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior written permission of the editor, writers, and owners of Onerahi Orbit.

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2022 Onerahi Awards for community leadership

A number of residents were honoured at the June Onerahi Association AGM for their outstanding contributions to our community. Awards were presented by outgoing President Nick Connop as one of his last duties in the leadership role. Three community leaders were recognised by the Association:

Chrissie Stephenson

For her contribution to the environment of Onerahi, by working with The Onerahi Weeds Group to actively control the Moth Plant.

Margaret Walters

For her contribution to the support and well-being of individuals and whānau in the community of Onerahi.

Tina Withers

For her contribution to the Community of Onerahi by taking care of the After-School program at the Community House for the last 13 years.

Article and photos by Rose Tantau, Administrator and Treasurer of the Onerahi Community Association



Margaret Walters with Nick Connop



Chrissie Stephenson



Tina Withers



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THANK YOU!

Bob Smith

For more than 15 years Bob Smith has coordinated and managed a large team of volunteers to deliver the Onerahi Orbit to households from Riverside Drive to Grahamtown Road. At the last edition he passed the distribution reins over to Allan Westlake, retiring from the job at 86 years old. But he hasn't retired to put his feet up - he plans on travelling to England and to Europe to visit old friends in Madeira and Romania. The Onerahi Orbit is going to miss him!

Bob emigrated from the United Kingdom to New Zealand in 2006 with his daughter, following his parents and sister who had emigrated here in 1972. Before then, he and his wife had lived in Barnoldswick, near the Yorkshire Dales. He worked for many years for Rolls Royce as their Aeroengine Inspector in their development factory where the Boeing 747 engine was developed. He was a keen footballer, and notched up 50 years either playing or reffing for his local club. He was also a town councillor for Barnoldswick and at one time was Chairman of the council. He recounts a story about the riding boundaries being shifted in 1974 - which meant he got into bed in the evening in Yorkshire, and woke up in the morning in Lancashire!

When he first started helping with the Onerahi Orbit the newsletter was in a newspaper format, about 4-6 pages long. The team used to compile the printed sheets into a newspaper

at the Church on Church Road - and then they would hand staple the newsletter together before delivering them to the Onerahi households. Since then things have progressed and the household numbers have grown; so that these days Bob managed a process which involved 3100 copies of the Orbit delivered by a team of 22 or 23 volunteers; with each person delivering to a specific area of between 70 - 220 households. Not a job for the unorganised or faint hearted.

Being a keen walker, Bob has always done one of the bigger areas for distribution. His love of walking and tramping started with fell running and led to his best ever holiday overseas - the climbing of Mt Kala Patur in Nepal in 1996, which was arranged after a chance meeting with a British mountaineer while Bob was visiting his mother in Whangārei, who then helped Bob achieve this dream. For comparative purposes, at 5800m above sea level, Mt Kala Patur is the same height as the intermediate base camp for Everest.

We at the Onerahi Orbit want to thank Bob for his years of service to the Onerahi Community. His passion for community, his energy in arranging and organising the team of volunteers, and most importantly his getting the job done with a smile no matter the weather. Thank you Bob - your contribution is appreciated and recognised.

Maybe Bob can share with us his latest adventures when he gets back from his travels...



Chairman of the Barnoldswick Council



Climbing Mt Kala Patur, with Mt Everest in the background



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Bob, fell running

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Elsbeth Sugrue
Taylor Wilkes - Nicole Dempster
Garby Smith - Ricky Brijs-Blaak (Locum)

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Vince for Mayor

Hi, I'm Vince Cocurullo, and I have been running my IT business in Whangārei for over 22 years. After nine years on Council representing the Onerahi community and the Okara Ward, I am putting my hand up to be Mayor of our beautiful district.

My working life started with Cook Costello Ltd and Opus, while completing my NZCE in Civil engineering, and I was fortunate to have designed/managed many of the projects that affect us today in Whangārei, such as the Waiarohia Truck Sewer line and five finger roundabout.

Onerahi is one of few within the new Urban Ward which has regular community meetings and its own community newspaper – the Onerahi Orbit. Community and local involvement are key to ensuring a strong future for our district.

As your mayor I will:

- support continual infrastructure upgrades for our district; better parking and transportation systems, roading improvements, sewerage, stormwater and water improvements.
- work toward a graffiti free, safe district. Expand our City Safe program (council funded security patrols) to the entire district, and put pressure on central government to do better at reducing crime.
- support business opportunities and growth within Whangārei. I would like to see a week long program to dispose all e-waste free every year.
- encourage a ratepayer and customer focused Council from the top down that respects the opinions of ratepayers and customers is dedicated to serve and makes sure council is prudent in the way it manages ratepayer money.

I believe in our district and its potential. That is why I am asking for your support to become your new Mayor.

Vince Cocurullo

For Mayor



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Matariki Celebrations



St Stephens Church Matariki Celebrations - Photo by Cllr Nick Connop



Our first Matariki holiday was widely embraced by the Onerahi community.



One event captured by photographer Wendy Giffin was held at St Stephen's Church in Onerahi. The crowd gathered in the predawn on the morning of Matariki on the 23rd June 2022. Wendy reports "It was a lovely crisp morning with a brazier blazing with a circle of around 40 people standing around it. It was awesome to have the bagpipes played by Ivan Hewett."

Matua Fred Tito led off the proceedings. There were several speakers with blessings, remembering and acknowledging those who are no longer with us. We had sign language interpreters for members of the deaf society who were present. After the closing we were treated to a scrumptious breakfast prepared by Multicultural Whangārei."

Hopefully this is the beginning of an annual Onerahi Matariki event.

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Onerahi community leaders needed!

If you are interested in being part of the lead group, please contact Claire by 31 August with your name and contact details; her contact details are below.

Some \$100k in seed funding is available from the Whangārei District Council for community led projects in Onerahi. Key to the success of the programme is that the project/s will be 100% community led and managed, by people just like you.

You don't need to be an expert in anything, you simply need to live in and love the community; and be willing to give your time.

The lead group will work with the community to decide on what project/s to do and will write a plan. This plan will be presented to council to show that the plan is achievable, well-budgeted and well supported by the wider community.

The projects in the plan will need to be widely supported by the community to support the aspirations, needs and wellbeing of the Onerahi community. The funding from the council can be supplemented by other funding sources, and with donations/gifts of material, land, skill, time or labour.

The lead group will be supported by a Community Development Advisor, Claire Wilson. Claire will 'walk alongside' the lead group and the community throughout the process, whilst providing advice, council expertise, and connections.

Also, let Claire know if you want to be involved but don't want to lead.

Ideas already received for Onerahi Community Led Projects

A big thank to all those who contributed to feedback about what they would like to see in Onerahi. There are some fantastic ideas reflecting the nature and needs of Onerahi. The feedback has been grouped and summarised into the following themes.

- Environment - protection & clean-ups.
- Recreation - upgrading existing or developing new sporting, play or recreational facilities with an emphasis on children and teen girls.
- Activities and programmes - after school clubs, cooking/gardening/art & craft classes, youth activities, more community events.
- Infrastructure - more public toilets, an outdoor shower at the beach, BBQ facilities, more lighting & CCTV, safer road crossings and footpaths, hanging out space/sensory garden next to library.
- Te Ao Māori - free Te Reo and Te Tiriti o Waitangi classes, Māori heritage trail, a place for Māori to gather and connect, entrance way pou/carvings etc.
- Other - tidy up of the shopping area, promotion of Onerahi as a seaside suburb (foreshore plans), a heritage trail to complement the collection of accounts in Tales of Onerahi etc.

Claire Wilson - Community Development Advisor
 claire.wilson@wdc.govt.nz or 021 547 412

Examples of other Whangārei projects completed as part of the community led projects programme:



The Otangarei community were in complete agreement on getting a playground for the kids. Previously there was nowhere for the kids to play.



Flower baskets and Kamo Heritage Trail signage in Kamo - The Kamo community opted to do heritage signs to complement the Tales of Kamo. The community also got a number of murals and flower baskets installed to brighten the area.



Waipu - Waipu/Waihoihoi River walkway. Officially opened on July 16th 2022. For more information go to www.facebook.com/waipuriverwalk

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From your

Member of Parliament Emily Henderson MP for Whangārei Helping Parents Grow Great Kids

Government Book Week sounds like something to do with financial book-keeping, but instead of Minister Robertson heroically balancing the Budget, this book week is more about the heroism of Captain Underpants and that famous crime-solving rodent, Geronimo Stilton.

Three times a year the Duffy Foundation lets 100,000 kiwi kids choose their own book. This year, the Government teamed up with them to give each kid two books, and as local MP I got to present the kids of Raurimu School their books just in time for the school holidays.

I grew up in a home where story-time was a treasured daily ritual. Even now, the Lion in the Meadow, the Very Hungry Caterpillar and many others still make my heart sing. One of the great joys of parenting was sharing those same stories and more with my kids, and I love that as young adults they're still book-crazy.

Storytime is proven to be one of the best things parents can do for kids' education. Giving kids a sense of how books work (pages turn this way! Those squiggles are words!) gives them a head-start at school but even better, knowing books contain great stories helps kids persevere with their reading. I still remember determinedly struggling on with my first "big" book because dad would only read a chapter a night and I was desperate to find out what happened next.

Watching the kids of Raurimu so excited that they couldn't even wait til assembly was over to start reading brought that all back to me.

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- **Half price public transport** for everyone until 31 January 2023, and permanently half price fares for people on low incomes
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- Free lunches in schools
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Emily Henderson
 MP for Whangārei

09 430 7922
Emily.HendersonMP@parliament.govt.nz

Authorised by Emily Henderson MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Kids need support to grow, and when times are as tough as they are then it's not just on parents, it's on the whole community to step in. If we want good adults, we need to invest in growing great kids.

That's also why the Government is investing in free school lunches for kids in many schools in Whangārei, so that they have the energy to learn. When I visit schools, teachers always say what a difference full tummies make to kids' concentration.

Our students have had to cope with huge disruption due to Covid and some are struggling to get back into school, but we're here to help with new programmes to address truancy and keep young people engaged. We're also making more nurses available at school and Northland is one of the first regions to receive the Mana Ake counselling programme developed for kids after the Christchurch Earthquake, to support kids to deal with the tough issues that, sadly, often come their way.

Budget 2022 will also see every school in Whangārei get an operational funding boost to use for more teachers and equipment, and we've made the biggest capital injection for school maintenance funding in at least 25 years, with hundreds of new classrooms to be built. It has been fantastic to see some of the upgrades across Whangārei, including at Onerahi School which has nearly completed their canopies and covered walkway.

As parents, it can be hard to find the energy for a story at the end of a long day, but it is worth the effort - and snuggling down to read to your kids is a great way to relax. Libraries make it easy to experiment and find the books you and your kids will love - but I'm betting on the Very Hungry Caterpillar ...



Emily Henderson at Raurimu School

From your
**Member of Parliament
Dr Shane Reti**



DR SHANE RETI MP
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Photos of local shore birds

The photos below are of some of our local Onerahi birdlife, and were sent in by Wendy Giffin. Please share with the Orbit any community event photos and photos that celebrate our beautiful place. Send in a caption with each photo that explains who/what is in the photo and where it was taken. Email to onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com



Heron - White Faced Heron

Whangārei joins other ram raid cities

Recently we have joined other towns and cities with central city ram raids at Kathmandu and Torpedo 7.

A week before this I was at a meeting organised by the Chamber of Commerce looking at central city youth crime. Present were Police, City Safe, the Whangārei Council co-ordinator for City Safe, the Mayor and councillor Cocurullo, Whangārei Boys High principal, the regional head of the Ministry of Education and the Chair and the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. The issue being discussed was the increase in youth crime in the central city. It was noted that this mostly appears to be a very small section of the youth community and importantly, it was also noted that this is a multifactorial issue that involves health, education and whānau and family relationships.

Some may ask why health specifically was mentioned. It was explained that there may be true contributions to this activity from syndromes such as dyslexia, autism and foetal alcohol syndrome. Reports out today suggest that 1 in 4 pre-school children in New Zealand may have developmental delay with strong linkages to poverty and low socioeconomic disadvantage. A reminder of those critical early years. Police and council commented that they face a vastly different compliance framework for what they can do compared to even five years ago, particularly as it relates to youth restraint which needs reasonable checks and balances.

This is an issue bigger than one meeting and others are being held to try and find the best balance between lawful behaviour and teenage activity. Let's back our Police and education and whānau workers as they do their very best to address this issue.



From your
Mayor Sheryl Mai
Youth crime calls for community response



News of ram raids, theft, violence, and antisocial behaviour seem to be making national headlines more often, and Whangārei District is no exception. I've been speaking with police, business owners, schools and members of our community over the past few weeks, and it's clear that there is a feeling of unease around the rate of youth crime in our District.

These concerns are real, and the impacts of this behaviour on people and property are

widespread and far reaching. Something needs to change. The question is what, and how.

To keep this in perspective, the vast majority of our young people are good kids, and we are justifiably proud of them and their potential.

Our society has been impacted by unprecedented challenges through COVID-19, we're also in an economic downturn, and most families in New Zealand are experiencing financial strain, causing stress within family groups and in the home.

We've had two years of broken schooling, ruptured relationships, and interrupted career growth. Many people lost their jobs, or had to choose alternative workstreams. The sustained societal stress accumulated over the past few years, including the influential role of social media, may well be playing a large part in the behaviours of our young people today. So it stands to reason that we will need multiple responses.

We already have youth programmes in place with Non-Government Organisations, Youth Space, schools, churches and faith-based youth organisations such as Te Ora Hou, and integrated support systems for families and young people. Social enterprises such as the R Tucker Thompson offer local leadership and youth development opportunities, and schemes such as Youth in Emergency Services give young people the opportunity to test their limits and gain skills in Civil Defence, fire and emergency, and Coastguard situations.

These programmes direct our young people to a place where they strengthen their life skills, discover their abilities and potential through pushing boundaries in a healthy and constructive way.

If the solution were simple, we would've solved it by now. We need to come together as a diverse and empowered community, to design a strategy that will protect our communities, identify causes of behaviour, and find ways to work with our young people, not against them. I thank the people who are already seeking positive solutions.

We all have a part to play. Collectively we all want what's best for every young person, and for them to feel a sense of hope and pride in their lives. They are our future.

Condensed from the Mayor's opinion piece, 4th July 2022



Youth Development Voyage grants are available from the R. Tucker Thompson (not-for-profit Charitable Trust)



Kingfisher - Young Karoro and Kotare side by side



Swallow - Swallow on an oyster rock



Cormorant - Black Shags - the largest of the cormorant family



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From your Northland Regional Councillor Amy Macdonald

Kia ora Koutou! Local body elections are underway! I do hope you take the time to check out the candidates and cast your vote in September. I'm proudly campaigning for another term representing this area, it's a challenging and rewarding role and I'd like the chance to do more!



In July I had the privilege of visiting Kiwi Kids Early Learning Centre here in Onerahi to celebrate their Bronze EnviroSchool achievement. This award recognizes the way the centre is bringing environmental awareness and action into the kids play and learning. They are also connecting with local pest control and weed management experts. Congratulations to all the teachers, kids and families!

I recently had a visit to the Predator Free Whangārei Heads depot, the field base for the Whangārei Heads Possum eradication project. It was great to meet the team, and see the equipment and new technology they are using. The lessons learnt through their fieldwork at the Heads will be valuable for biosecurity projects across Northland, and no doubt will help advance local conservation here in Onerahi.

Winter sports is well underway, and I've been enjoying bringing the kids to their morning soccer at the Onerahi fields – always a warm friendly community vibe even on the coldest days! This year I'm helping to organise our teams some Saturdays and have to say it's made me even more grateful for all the wonderful parents and volunteers that make our local kids sports possible! Coaches, administrators, club managers, support people, we APPRECIATE you!

Soon you'll see my billboards, and I'll be out and about waving with my signs and at the shops chatting with locals - if you see me please give me a toot or a wave and if you've got

time do stop and have a chat. Stay warm and dry! As always, I'm happy to hear from you – amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on facebook: Amy Macdonald – NRC Councillor.

Ngā mihi nui,

amym@nrc.govt.nz | www.nrc.govt.nz | To report pollution and environmental incidents call the 24/7 environmental hotline: 0800 504 639

Disclaimer – this is my personal opinion and not that of the Northland Regional Council



Amy Macdonald

NRC Councillor

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Your local health professional

Tech Talk

Updates and should we keep doing them on our devices?

This question is posed to me daily and is always asked in relation to the device's operating system.

The biggest thing I need to keep reminding people is, please do not get sucked into using third party software, this is software that did not come with the device which has many popups telling you your system is out of date and needs fixing. "Your device will tell you when it needs updating."

So how do you tell if the message that is coming up is real?

- If your computer has a Windows operating system, and automatic updates are turned on, then you will get a small icon down in the right-hand corner of your screen (next to the date and time) which will say "windows updates are available". You can double check by clicking on start icon, then settings (windows 10/11), then click on "update & security", and then "windows update", if updates are available, you can download and install them.
- If your computer is an apple, then typically you will get a message popping up in the top right-hand corner saying updates available. You can double check this by going to the Apple Menu, and click on "System Preferences, then click on Software update, and Apple will tell you.
- If you have a Samsung or android device you can check by, scrolling down from the top of the screen, and tap on the little socket symbol, then tap on software update. (Wording maybe different for various android devices)



- If you have an Apple device, tap on settings, then general, then Software update.
If at any moment you do not feel comfortable doing this or would like help, this is the best time to contact your local IT person for help, they will not bite, and they are more than happy to help walk you through the process.
- Keeping your devices up to date protects them from security holes that sometimes are created by third party software. This also enables your device to sometimes run a bit smoother.
- There is one major "red herring" I bring up as well, when dealing with updates. There are times when completing the OS update on your device, may force you to update your Microsoft software or other applications that you may need to repurchase. Also, when trying to update, the update may not complete correctly as you do not have enough space on your device.
When in doubt, ask for help.

Vince

Vince Cocurullo
Northland's Fix-it man

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Raurimu Avenue School

"Poipoia te rito o te harakeke"

Raurimu Avenue School Report

Tena koutou katoa/Greetings

We would like to highlight some of the activities from the first six months of 2022.

The first term brought great weather allowing us to use the pool frequently and complete our water safety programme. Our junior class featured on the cover of the Northland Safety wise magazine after submitting photos.

We approached the Whangārei RSA for guidance for our Fields of Remembrance service and held this on the last day of term 1. This very special service culminated in ANZAC activities and all staff and pupils shared the emotional and spiritual aspects adding meaning to things learnt.

The new school logo and colours are moving our school in an exciting direction.

- Poipoia te rito o te harakeke – Nurture the heart of the flax.
- Symbolically the heart of the flax is the student.

Currently we have works going on at the kura upgrading our learning spaces and bringing in the colours of our logo. Our students will have plenty of their artwork displayed around the new spaces, along with spaces to provide different learning aspects.

No reira
Tena ra koutou katoa

Martin (Moutini) Bryers
Principal



Anzac art and laying crosses in field of remembrance

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Onerahi School Report



Kia ora e te whānau,
For this issue we were hoping to bring you news from our Matariki community event. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed to the second

week of Term 3. Instead we will be showcasing some superb writing from our tamariki. Children have been exploring effective sentence structures in class which led to a schoolwide competition.

Tamariki entered either as individuals, as a group, or as a whole class. Hopefully these sentence starters help spark your imagination. As C.S. Lewis says, "You can make anything by writing."

Seal on the road at Kissing Point Boatsheds

From July to September each year there's an influx of adolescent seals on our shores and further inland. This is because seal pups begin to wean at this time of year as their mothers prepare for new pups.

Recently a stray adolescent pup ran into some trouble near the Kissing Point boat sheds. It was peak traffic in the late afternoon and the pup was getting under cars, near pedestrians and dogs, was close to the road and creating a potential safety issue. A team of competent locals got together and captured the pup, releasing it in a quiet spot at the sea along Onerahi Beach Road - much safer for all concerned. The pup weighed about 15kg and was about 3 foot long, and sported a good set of teeth!

DOC takes a 'hands off' approach to seals. They are capable and resilient and given time and space, they usually find their way home. There are exceptions to this 'hands off' approach. DOC will intervene if a seal is:

- in notably poor condition
- in immediate danger
- tangled in debris
- causing disruption, eg in the middle of a road, or
- being harassed.

What to do if you're concerned?

Ask: Is the seal in danger, injured or being harassed by people or dogs? If so, call the DOC emergency hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Never attempt to move or handle a seal yourself: they are aggressive when stressed and it's important not to separate a mother and her pup.



Seal pup

You will also have noticed the colourful photos from our kura. We recently had a Loud Shirt Day to celebrate how diversity is a source of strength. We had a great day filled with dancing, friendship, and learning. Coming together as a school, we organised ourselves into a spectrum of colours (as seen in the photos.) This is a perfect metaphor for how we each bring our own uniqueness to school and how, when we collaborate, we can achieve things much bigger than ourselves. That is the heart of our kaupapa at Onerahi School, shaping the future together.

Sentence Starters

- **Year 1/2 - Room 19**
Before loud thunder boomed like a bomb, lightning flashed in the dark clouds.
- **Year 2 - Room 22**
Tomorrow, teachers make snow angels in the sandpit.
- **Year 3 - Mita**
Over the bridge, I sat and had a cup of tea.
- **Year 3/4 - Room 17**
Below the water, Tutira scared the people in their waka.
- **Year 4 - Ethan**
Behind the stars, a galaxy full of planets.
- **Year 5 - Nevaeh**
On September 25th, the word 'something' fell into the Oxford Dictionary.
- **Year 6 - Lara**
With all of my strength I lifted myself up onto land, out of the ocean's grasp.
- **Year 6 - Lennox**
Behind the curtains, I could see the condensation creeping up on the window.
- **Year 6 - Hazel**
Despite the cold wind, the ocean couldn't have been more beautiful.
- **Year 6 - Summer, Monty**
In the great bay by Wellington, Ngake's dark red blood was pouring out.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Danny Hamilton
Deputy Principal

The Parua Bay Placemaking Plan

The first round of engagement on the Plan was open from 2 March - 11 April 2022. Over this period, council sought feedback from the community, tangata whenua

- 41 People participated in workshops
- 164 reactions on Social Media
- 157 completed online surveys
- 27 'Drop a Pins' on Arc GIS map
- 5 Email submissions
- 6 meetings



and stakeholders. Council summarised the feedback received into a report, available on the Whangārei District Council website - see www.wdc.govt.nz/Placemaking. The key themes of the feedback were presented to Councillors on Thursday 19th May 2022:

Smart growth

- The community see their potential for growth
- Parua Bay as a Hub for Whangārei Heads and future growth needs to be developed in a coordinated, integrated way achieving high quality design outcomes

Community resilience

- Their community, relationships, and the natural environment
- Strong sense of community
- Community, education, recreation and health amenities
- Unique dual (Māori and European) heritage

Connectivity

- Multi-modal transport options
- Improving walking/cycling opportunities
- Road safety (driver behaviour, speeding, roading improvements and investment)
- Safe, connected, and resilient transport network for all users

Ongoing collaboration will be undertaken by council to investigate issues/opportunities and test ideas/concepts with staff, the community, stakeholders and tangata whenua; then drafting of the plan will occur.

Council has invited people to continue to have their say - contact them at placemaking@wdc.govt.nz.

Voting in the Elections

Do you want to improve the regional and district Councils? Then VOTE

If you get out there and vote for candidates based on the issues that are important to you, your whānau, your communities and your business, then those making the decisions will be more closely aligned with what you want for our town or district. Build a resilient and innovative future by voting for those you trust to make a difference.

The people elected to regional and local councils make important decisions about our daily lives, our environment and the future development of our place. They set and collect rates, oversee development planning and building, and provide services like roading, water, rubbish collection, parks and economic development.

If you didn't receive an enrolment pack in the first week of July, it means you're not enrolled to vote or your details are not up to date. You can enrol if you're 18 or older, a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident, and have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some time in your life. You can enrol online at the Electoral Commission website: <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/> or call 0800 36 76 56 and ask for an enrolment form.

The Whangārei District Council will send voting papers to you in the mail when it's time to vote, so it's important that you're enrolled at the right address.

If you enrol or update your address after midnight 12 August 2022, you won't get your voting papers sent to you in the mail. You'll have to request special voting papers from the Whangārei District Council's local electoral officer. The last day to enrol to vote in the local elections is Friday 7 October.



Key dates for the 2022 Local Elections

- 12 August - Enrolment closes for the printed electoral roll - enrol by 12 August to get your voting papers sent to you in the mail.
- 16-21 September - Voting documents are sent to all enrolled voters by local councils
- Saturday 8 October - Voting closes at midday

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"Please cremate me. Don't put me in the ground where someone may dig me up if you move house."

The team at Stardust will give me a dignified farewell.

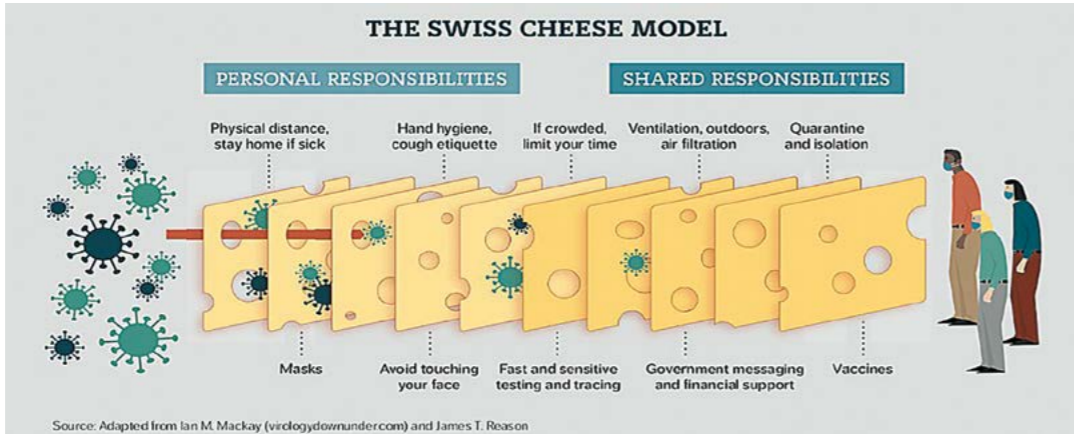
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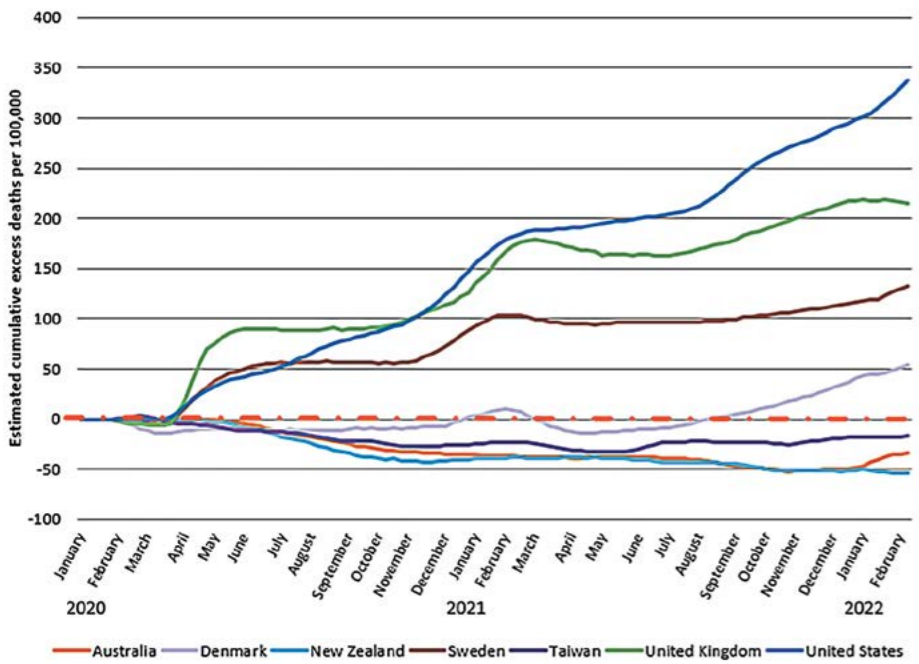
Together we saved lives

Over the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, New Zealand has used a range of public health measures that have played a direct role in keeping mortality from Covid-19 relatively low compared to other nations.

As much as we all want this pandemic to be over, it is not finished with us yet. Remember, most measures you use for controlling Covid-19 transmission will also help you to keep clear of other viruses too. Look after yourselves and your whānau.



Measures of excess death during the pandemic incorporate both indirect and direct deaths from Covid-19, and so is considered one of the more valid indicators of the mortality impact of the pandemic. Using data from Our World in Data, figure 1 below displays the estimated cumulative excess death per 100,000 people for several selected countries, including NZ. With NZ, the estimated population is ~5.1 million, and per figure 1, the excess deaths is below '0' (red dotted line) with -53.8 deaths per 100,000. This figure equates to 2,750 people in NZ not dying during the pandemic period relative to the expected numbers dying based on pre-pandemic levels.



As a new Covid-19 wave, largely fuelled by the Omicron variant, peaks again over winter, we may question what we have achieved - what was the purpose of pursuing a cautious approach to Covid-19 (an elimination strategy for the majority of the pandemic then a suppression approach) with the associated use of tight border controls (quarantine), stay at home orders (lockdowns), and other public health and social measures to contain transmission of this pandemic virus? One answer to this is the many lives that NZ saved by not letting Covid-19 'rip' through the nation.

Delaying the widespread transmission of this pandemic in NZ allowed time for the vast majority of the population to be vaccinated in order to reduce the risk of death, serious illness and long-Covid. We will never know the specific individuals whose lives were saved, but the evidence for changes to mortality patterns in NZ clearly exists. And when these changes are compared internationally, the positive effects of NZ's Covid-19 initial approach is even more striking and profound.

Based on: Otago University blog by Dr Jennifer Summers, Professor Michael Baker, Professor Nick Wilson; posted on February 23, 2022: 'Mortality declines in Aotearoa NZ during the first two years of the Covid-19 pandemic', blogs.otago.ac.nz



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Ranger Jo's Report

Visitors, volunteers, and other comings and goings

Group enquiries are beginning to increase again, which is great. We had a group from Blomfield Special school visit on 7 May. This was followed by Jan Thomas, and her class from Horahora Primary School, who also came over as part of the Adopt-a Spot programme.



Blomfield Special School students with wax filled kiwi egg

A small group of eight volunteers joined me on 8 June, with most of the day spent filling bait stations on the grassy North face of the Island as part of our recent "mouse bust". After lunch some of the group made their way to the Northern quarry where they cut and pasted Chinese privet. The rest of the group spent the remaining hour digging out the drain which collects water from behind the Ranger's cottage.

A ladies' tramping group visited Matakoho. Conditions in the channel were relatively calm when I picked the group up from the Onerahi pontoon, although the same can't be said for dropping them off in the afternoon. Wind against tide made for some decent chop in the channel and I said goodbye to 14 very soggy, but good-spirited, trampers who vowed to return in the summer - good call! A highlight for me, and I am sure for some of the group, was seeing a NZ fur seal pup swimming around the southern pontoon when they were boarding the barge to head home.

Dwane, Pam, and Chris from Whangārei District Council hitched a ride over with the trampers to assess the suggested location for a new composting toilet and to look at some of the walking tracks.



Ladies tramping group about to set off for Matakoho



Kohekohe flowers with Dwane's hand for perspective

Flora and Fauna

It's that time of year where the kiwi go nuts, calling up a storm and quite often waking us up! More than once we have had a kiwi run across the stacks of corrugated iron stored under the house, giving me a hang of a fright in the middle of the night!

We are in the initial stages of discussing the potential release of wētāpunga or giant wētā onto Matakoho. We are hoping to bring species specialist Chris Green to Matakoho in the next few months to assess the habitat and overall viability of the translocation if it were to go ahead.

The vegetation on Matakoho is looking incredibly lush at the moment, with plenty of new growth thanks to a relatively wet summer and continued rain ever since. I've come across four large kohekohe trees this week with quirky sprays of white perfumed flowers coming straight out of the trunk and branches - as they do. Kohekohe is a good indicator species for possums and rats. If you have kohekohe that is managing to retain their flowers then your possum control is most likely working, likewise, if seedlings are appearing beneath your tree, then your rat control is probably working.

Pest control

In the last month, I have caught 2 rats, both on Knight Island. Extra frustratingly, I discovered that we had another two double-set DOC200 traps including boxes stolen. Altogether that's 14 singular traps and 5 boxes we have lost to theft since I became Ranger. I wish we didn't have to worry about things such as theft, but we appreciate the support of the wider conservation community when it does happen.

Pod, pods, and more pods. Mothplant pods are still keeping me busy. It is getting to the time of year when the pods begin to break open and release their fluffy white seeds. Quite often I can follow a trail of fluff to the mother plant where I can pick any unburst and half burst pods before they too disperse and germinate.

Cheers!

Jo and Darin. www.limestoneisland.org.nz



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Part 2: Living Down Under

Nothing can really prepare you for visiting Coober Pedy in South Australia. With a population of around 3500 and dozens of different nationalities, the opal capital of the world is unique, as residents mostly live and work beneath your feet.



Pete and Libby Urbahn

When you arrive in the dusty desert town in South Australia, one colour monopolises all others. Everything is white or varying shades of white. The place shimmers and sparkles as sunlight strikes the slopes of thousands of mullock heaps dotting the unearthly landscape, mini-mountains of disgorged fill from the bowels of the earth by prospectors seeking their fortunes. Moon-like is the word that comes to mind as you scan the pockmarked surface devoid of any serious vegetation.

Most opal hunters live in dugouts hollowed from the soft pink sedimentary rock where they escape the scorching summer daytime temperatures that reach over 450C. Dugouts maintain an even temperature around 230C all year and have the added advantage of owners merely boring out another room if they have an unexpected addition to the family or the in-laws arrive for an extended stay.

Some buildings in Coober Pedy are above ground such as the supermarket and caravan park though they both have underground equivalents. There is also an underground museum in the centre of town. Well worth a visit, the galleries



The weird residential landscape of Coober Pedy

paint a dramatic picture of the early opal mining history and hardships experienced by those brave early settlers.

The only indication that any dwellings lie beneath the stony white surface are the scores of breather pipes and ventilation shafts that protrude above the shimmering landscape. We even discovered an underground Best Western Motel.

Our first venture underground was to the Serbian Orthodox Church. A shy young Serbian girl showed us around, and we admired the massive cavern that formed the main chapel. As she led us through the tunnels, we marvelled at seeing spaces adorned with intricate religious carvings and sculptures.

Next, we visited a real dugout home. Wandering through the cavernous rooms snaking through the pink rock felt weird knowing people lived in this strange place, ascending to the surface like troglodytes each day to work on their mullock heaps. The site gave a completely new meaning to the phrase living down under.

The setting for the Mad Max movies, the Breakaways, are a series of oddly shaped lumps and bumps on an inordinately flat landscape a few kilometres out of town.

Surprisingly, the region is also rich in Aboriginal and European history and home to an array of native fauna and flora that have successfully adapted to the harsh environment.



A typical dugout in Coober Pedy



The Breakaways near Coober Pedy

Sail Northland

It's hard to believe the end of Term 2 is here and it's time for a break with our new High School Sailing Academy, Winter Saturday Sailing and Winter Team Sailing which will continue again in term 3.

However, we are busy getting ready for more fun times with our new July Holiday Programme which will start next week with new adventures and treasure hunts at Motukioere Island for some and working on sailing skills for our 420 Sailing Training group.

A big thank you to all our amazing sponsors including Four Winds Foundation for contributing towards new sails and boat covers, Grassroots Trust for funds towards a YNZ LTS Coach Development Course, Harcourts Foundation for funds towards new sailing gear for our junior sailors, Torpedo 7 for discounted helmets & lifejackets and NZSailing.com for prizes, vouchers, discounted lifejackets & sprayjackets. We really appreciate all your support.

A big congratulations and thank you to our amazing volunteers. Kay Jenkin and Ken (Billy) Bilyard recently received Sport Northland Volunteer Awards for their continued amazing work in our community. We are so blessed to have you part of our team.



We are now taking school and group bookings for Term 4, 2022 and Term 1, 2023 and will be offering our regular sailing opportunities again in Term 4 - bookings will be available soon on our website www.sailnorthland.org.nz and we welcome enquiries for people who are keen to have a go or register their interest with us at sailnorthland@gmail.com or 0277749145. If you would like to know more about what we do please subscribe to our website and/or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

Sarah Ihaka & The Sail Northland Team



GJ Gardner New Zealand Open Team Racing Nationals Sat 4 Jun 2022 to Mon 6 Jun 2022

Over Queen's Birthday weekend, 2 teams went up to Kerikeri and competed in the NZ Open Team Sailing Nationals. The girls' team (Tangled) came 9th Overall and the boys' team (Wet asses) came 6th Overall. Very light wind regatta, but it was great training for everyone. Parua Bay doesn't usually offer us light wind sailing so it was a bit of a challenge.



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Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1 Mo	04:02	0.9	9 Tu	04:23	2.8	17 We	05:27	0.6	25 Th	00:03	1.1
	10:13	2.8		10:39	0.7		11:50	3.0		06:17	2.5
	16:09	0.8		17:17	2.8		17:44	0.7		12:17	1.0
	22:35	2.9		23:15	0.9					18:53	2.7
2 Tu	04:42	0.8	10 We	05:30	2.8	18 Th	00:14	3.0	26 Fr	00:49	1.0
	10:53	2.8		11:40	0.6		06:14	0.6		07:05	2.6
	16:49	0.8		18:20	3.0		12:38	2.9		13:02	0.9
	23:14	2.9					18:33	0.8		19:35	2.8
3 We	05:23	0.8	11 Th	00:16	0.8	19 Fr	01:01	2.9	27 Sa	01:33	1.0
	11:34	2.8		06:35	2.9		07:01	0.8		07:49	2.7
	17:32	0.8		12:39	0.6		13:27	2.7		13:44	0.8
	23:54	2.9		19:17	3.1		19:24	1.0		20:15	2.9
4 Th	06:05	0.8	12 Fr	01:14	0.6	20 Sa	01:48	2.7	28 Su	02:14	0.9
	12:18	2.8		07:35	3.0		07:50	0.9		08:30	2.8
	18:17	0.8		13:34	0.5		14:21	2.7		14:24	0.8
				20:12	3.2		20:19	1.1		20:52	2.9
5 Fr	00:38	2.9	13 Sa	02:08	0.5	21 Su	02:37	2.6	29 Mo	02:54	0.8
	06:51	0.8		08:30	3.1		08:42	1.0		09:10	2.8
	13:07	2.7		14:27	0.4		15:19	2.6		15:04	0.7
	19:07	0.9		21:03	3.3		21:17	1.2		21:30	3.0
6 Sa	01:25	2.8	14 Su	03:00	0.5	22 Mo	03:31	2.5	30 Tu	03:34	0.7
	07:41	0.8		09:23	3.1		09:37	1.0		09:49	2.9
	14:01	2.7		15:18	0.4		16:18	2.6		15:45	0.7
	20:04	0.9		21:53	3.3		22:16	1.2		22:08	3.0
7 Su	02:18	2.8	15 Mo	03:51	0.5	23 Tu	04:28	2.5	31 We	04:14	0.7
	08:36	0.8		10:13	3.1		10:33	1.0		10:30	2.9
	15:02	2.7		16:07	0.5		17:15	2.6		16:26	0.7
	21:06	1.0		22:41	3.2		23:11	1.2		22:48	3.0
8 Mo	03:17	2.8	16 Tu	04:39	0.5	24 We	05:24	2.5			
	09:36	0.8		11:02	3.0		11:27	1.0			
	16:10	2.8		16:55	0.6		18:06	2.6			
	22:11	0.9		23:28	3.1						

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Lat. 35°46'S Long. 174°21'E
SEPTEMBER 2022

N.Z. LOCAL TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1 Th	04:56	0.7	9 Fr	06:22	2.9	17 Sa	00:22	2.8	25 Su	01:00	0.9
	11:12	2.9		12:22	0.6		06:23	0.8		08:20	2.7
	17:10	0.7		18:59	3.1		12:49	2.7		14:14	0.8
	23:29	2.9					18:50	1.0		20:40	2.9
2 Fr	05:39	0.7	10 Sa	00:56	0.6	18 Su	01:05	2.7	26 Mo	02:42	0.8
	11:57	2.9		07:20	3.0		07:09	0.9		09:02	2.8
	17:56	0.8		13:17	0.5		13:38	2.6		14:56	0.7
				19:52	3.2		19:42	1.1		21:20	2.9
3 Sa	00:14	2.9	11 Su	01:49	0.5	19 Mo	01:52	2.5	27 Tu	03:24	0.7
	06:25	0.7		08:14	3.1		07:59	1.0		09:44	2.9
	12:46	2.8		14:08	0.5		14:34	2.6		15:38	0.7
	18:47	0.9		20:41	3.2		20:39	1.2		22:00	3.0
4 Su	01:02	2.8	12 Mo	02:38	0.5	20 Tu	02:45	2.5	28 We	04:05	0.6
	07:15	0.8		09:04	3.1		08:54	1.1		10:25	3.0
	13:41	2.8		14:57	0.5		15:35	2.5		16:21	0.6
	19:44	0.9		21:28	3.2		21:39	1.2		22:41	3.0
5 Mo	01:57	2.8	13 Tu	03:26	0.4	21 We	03:46	2.4	29 Th	04:47	0.6
	08:12	0.8		09:51	3.1		09:52	1.1		11:08	3.0
	14:44	2.7		15:44	0.5		16:35	2.5		17:05	0.6
	20:48	1.0		22:14	3.1		22:36	1.2		23:24	3.0
6 Tu	02:59	2.7	14 We	04:11	0.5	22 Th	04:47	2.4	30 Fr	05:30	0.5
	09:14	0.8		10:36	3.1		10:50	1.1		11:52	3.0
	15:53	2.8		16:30	0.6		17:29	2.6		17:51	0.7
	21:54	0.9		22:57	3.0		23:29	1.1			
7 We	04:08	2.7	15 Th	04:56	0.6	23 Fr	05:44	2.5			
	10:19	0.8		11:20	3.0		11:43	1.0			
	17:01	2.8		17:15	0.7		18:17	2.7			
	22:59	0.9		23:40	2.9						
8 Th	05:18	2.8	16 Fr	05:39	0.7	24 Sa	00:16	1.0			
	11:22	0.7		12:04	2.9		06:34	2.6			
	18:03	3.0		18:02	0.9		12:30	0.9			
	23:59	0.8					19:00	2.8			

Meningococcal warning

Four cases of meningococcal have been reported in Northland in the four weeks prior to the Orbit going to print. All of the cases are in children aged five or under and all have required hospital treatment.

At this stage, there are no known links between the cases. People, especially care givers, are asked to be aware of the symptoms of meningococcal because it can develop very quickly. It can be treated with antibiotics, but early treatment is very important. Symptoms of meningitis can develop suddenly and include: a high fever, headache, sleepiness, joint and muscle pains.

There can also be some more specific symptoms, such as: a stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, vomiting, crying, refusal to feed (in infants), a rash consisting of reddish-purple pin-prick spots or bruises.

If you notice any of the symptoms of meningococcal disease or have any other concerns, contact your doctor without delay – or call Healthline free on 0800 611 116 at any hour of the day or night, even if you have already been seen by a health professional.

Based on information provided by Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand, Te Tai Tokerau

Babies and Toddlers

- Fever, cold hands and feet
- Refusing food and vomiting
- Fretful, dislike being handled
- Drowsy, floppy, unresponsive
- Rapid breathing or grunting
- Pale, blotchy skin Spots/rash See Glass Test
- Unusual cry, moaning
- Tense, bulging fontanelle (soft spot)
- Stiff neck, dislike bright lights
- Convulsions/seizures



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ONERAHI COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10am Raurimu Ave School Hall

If you confess Jesus is Lord and believe God raised Him from death, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

VACANT

Contact: hello.onecc@gmail.com - 021 023 897 01

Coming dates & events

August / September 2022

Tuesday 9 August	United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
Friday 12 August	United Nations International Youth Day
Saturday 20 August	Bernina Northland Fashion Awards 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm; Te Kotahitanga Exhibition Hall, Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue, Whangārei
Saturday 20 August	Whangārei Stamp Fair: St Johns Church Centre, 149 Kamo Road - Whangārei, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday 11 September	Whangārei Run/Walk Festival: a 21.1km (half marathon), 8.5km and 4km fun run and walk. Drink Stations every 3kms, spot prizes and entertainment along the course. The 8.5km Run/Walk encompasses the popular Hatea Loop. Adults: Enter any run/walk event and you will secure yourself a chance to win a 2019 Suzuki Swift. Book at www.Whangareihalf.co.nz
Friday 23 September	United Nations International Day of sign languages
Monday 26 September	Dominion Day -The 1907 royal proclamation of Dominion status of New Zealand has never been revoked and remains in force today.
Sunday 9 October	Rugby World Cup 2021 (playing in 2022) - Opening Match Day, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Pool B: USA vs. ITALY (starting at 12:45pm); Pool B: JAPAN vs. CANADA (starting it 3:15pm); Pool A: WALES vs. SCOTLAND (starting at 5:45pm) Venue: Northland Events Centre, 51 Okara Drive, Whangārei

Regular Events

Onerahi Sit-Fit	Hope Onerahi Church, 137 Onerahi Road, Mondays, 10.15 am
Onerahi Hall Market	Saturdays 8am-12pm. There will be NO market on Sat 13 or 27 August , Starting again Sept. Plants, garden produce, jams/pickles, art/craft, 2nd hand goods. Stalls available from \$7, phone Jenny (09) 436 0009

Onerahi Orbit is not responsible for any events listed here that are cancelled due to COVID-19 or for any other reason. Please check with local event organisers to see if the event is confirmed or cancelled

Venues available for hire in Onerahi, Parua Bay and Whangārei Heads area

Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Julie Dennis	09 436 4439 or 021 034 9943
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Fiona Raymond-Paikea	onerahirugby@yahoo.com.
Onerahi Soccer Club	Fiona Ellis	onerahifootballclub@outlook.co.nz
Hope Church	Secretary	09 438 1667
Raurimu School Hall	School Office	09 436 0820 Ext. 2
St. Stephen's Church Hall	Paul Doherty	021 189 4797 or 09 436 0207
Tamaterau Hall	Dorothy Gatland	021 119 0089
Parua Bay Comm.Centre	Kirsty	bjandkirsty@slingshot.co.nz
McLeod Bay Hall	Norma	09 434 0909
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	09 434 0096
Whangārei District Council Hotline: 0800 932 463		Onerahi Police (09) 436 0222

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